



Missouri

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

*Motorcycle
Operator
Manual*

DOR-2332 (3-2008)

PREFACE

Operating a motorcycle safely in traffic requires special skills and knowledge. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) has made this manual available to help novice motorcyclists reduce their risk of having a crash. The manual conveys essential safe-riding information and has been designed for use in licensing programs. While designed for the novice, all motorcyclists can benefit from the information this manual contains.

The original “Motorcycle Operator Manual” was developed by the National Public Services Research Institute (NPSRI) under contract to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and within the terms of a cooperative agreement between NHTSA and the MSF. The manual and related tests were used in a multi-year study of improved motorcycle operator licensing procedures, conducted by the California Department of Motor Vehicles under contract to NHTSA.

The purpose of this manual is to educate the reader to help avoid crashes while safely operating a motorcycle. For this edition, the MSF has updated and expanded the content of the original manual. These revisions reflect:

- The latest finding of motorcycle-safety research.

- Comments and guidance provided by the motorcycling, licensing, and traffic-safety communities.
- Expanded alcohol and drug information.

In promoting improved licensing programs, the MSF works closely with state licensing agencies. The Foundation has helped more than half the states in the nation adopt the “Motorcycle Operator Manual” for use in their licensing systems.

Improved licensing, along with high quality motorcycle rider education and increased public awareness, has the potential to reduce crashes. Staff at the Foundation are available to assist state, private and governmental agencies in efforts to improve motorcycle safety.



Tim Buche
President
Motorcycle Safety Foundation



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Safety is on Your Shoulders

Since 1931, 27 Missouri State Highway Patrol Troopers have been killed in the line of duty. Eight of those officers were killed after being struck by a vehicle, whose driver was either impaired or not paying attention. The number one contributing circumstance to traffic crashes in Missouri is driver inattention. Please slow down and move over away from stationary emergency vehicles along the side of the road with their emergency equipment activated. **IT'S THE LAW.**



The law (Section 304.022, RSMo.) requires motorists to yield the right-of-way and immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as far as possible to the right of, the traveled portion of the highway and thereupon stop and remain in such position until such emergency vehicle has passed,

except when otherwise directed by a police or traffic officer.

A revision to the law, which became effective August 28, 2002, requires motorists upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle displaying lighted red or red and blue lights to:

- (1) Proceed with caution and yield the right-of-way, if possible, with due regard to safety and traffic conditions, by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of the stationary vehicle, if on a roadway having at least four lanes with not less than two lanes proceeding in the same direction as the approaching vehicle; or
- (2) Proceed with due caution and reduce the speed of the vehicle, maintaining a safe speed for road conditions, if changing lanes would be unsafe or impossible.

Violation of this section is a class A misdemeanor.



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August, 2007

Dear Fellow Missourians:

The Motorcycle Operator Manual is a resource for new and experienced motorcycle riders alike. It gives new riders an opportunity to learn about the rules of the road and serves as a refresher course for more experienced riders.

No matter where you travel throughout the Show Me State, remember to make safety a priority. Thank you for doing your part to ensure Missouri's roads are safe for the drivers, passengers, and pedestrians who use them every day.

Sincerely,

Matt Blunt